

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2014 – Week 2

Air Date: June 8 – June 14 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE TURTLE II

JUNE 1958 AND THE TEXAS NAVY SAILS AGAIN... IN A LAKE?

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 14, 1958. CORSICANA. WHEN DIVING IS BANNED IN THE NEARBY LAKE, PLUMBING INSPECTOR RAY BASS DECIDES TO SEE THE BOTTOM IN HIS OWN SUBMARINE.

MADE FROM AN OLD ARMY WATER TANK, STEEL PIPE, AND INNER TUBES, THE HOMEMADE SUB COSTS ABOUT A HUNDRED BUCKS. WITH A HAND-CRANKED SCREW, THE SUB MAKES ABOUT THREE KNOTS UNDERWATER.

TODAY, GOVERNOR PRICE DANIEL COMMISSIONS THE SUB INTO THE TEXAS NAVY AND MAKES RAY BASS AN ADMIRAL. WITH A BOTTLE OF GALVESTON SEAWATER, A LOCAL BEAUTY QUEEN CHRISTENS THE SUB THE TURTLE II.

THE SUB NOW RESTS AT A LOCAL WELDING SHOP.

THE TURTLE II TOOKS ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE 56 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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"100 Submarine," *Mechanix Illustrated*, June 1959 (<http://blog.modernmechanix.com/100-submarine/>), accessed May 29, 2014.

Galveston County Daily News, June 15, 1958

Amarillo Globe Times, April 22, 1958

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